

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND NATURAL RESOURCES
SUBCOMMITTEE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Don Gray
225-6427

May 6, 1983

Honorable Caspar W. Weinberger
Secretary
Department of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Subcommittee on Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, is conducting a review of the Environmental Protection Agency's administration of the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Liability and Compensation Act of 1980 (CERCLA) as well as the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). In this connection, the Subcommittee has become aware that, by agreement between EPA and the Department of Defense, DOD will assume responsibility for cleaning up toxic waste sites within the boundaries of its installations, and accordingly those sites have not been included on the EPA priority list for Superfund cleanup.

The Subcommittee has also become aware of problems that have arisen with regard to American Electric Corporation of Jacksonville, Florida in connection with a DOD contract to dispose of toxic wastes containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) from Loring Air Force Base.

Since American Electric Corporation is subject to EPA jurisdiction, this situation raises the question of who is responsible for assuring that contractors hired to clean up toxic wastes on DOD installations do so in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, what policies and procedures are in place to achieve this objective, and are they working effectively.

In order to resolve these questions, I am hereby requesting Subcommittee staff access to and copying privileges for all contracts, memoranda, reports and any other documents generated by or for DOD as well as memorializations of meetings or telephone conversations relating to contracts between DOD and American Electric Corporation for disposal of toxic or other hazardous wastes from any DOD installations including, but not limited to the following:

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I have discussed this request with CNO of 45. They concern and suggest that we cooperate fully. JWM 114A

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Honorable Caspar w. Weinberger
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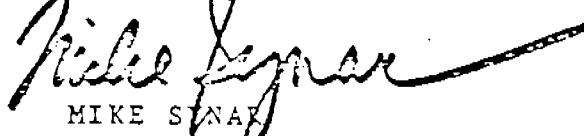
Loring Air Force Base (Maine)
Redstone Arsenal (Alabama)
Corps of Engineers (Alaska)
Hill Air Force Base (Utah)
Naval Submarine Base (Rhode Island)
Defense Logistics Agency (Battle Creek, Michigan)
Marine Corps Base (Albany)
Naval Air Station (Jacksonville, Florida)✓
Marine Corps Base (Camp Pendleton, California)
Naval Coastal Systems (Panama City, Florida)
U.S. NAS, Cecil Field (Florida)-
Naval Underwater Systems Command (Newport, Rhode Island)
Fort McClellan Procurement Div. (Ft. McClellan, Ala.)

A similar request for information has already been sent to EPA. However, in order to properly evaluate this situation it is essential that we also look at the DOD side of the ledger.

If there are any questions regarding this request, please contact Don Gray or Lester Brown of the Subcommittee staff at 225-6427.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,


MIKE SYNAR
Chairman

cc: Honorable Jack Brooks
Chairman, Committee on Government Operations

MS/dg